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A N  
EASY, SHORT, and CERTAIN  
M E T H O D  
O F  
TREATING PERSONS  
B I T B Y  
MAD ANIMALS.

B Y  
*CLAUDE du CHOISEL,*  
Of the SOCIETY of JESUS,  
APOTHECARY to the MISSION of  
PONDICHERRY in the EAST INDIES.

Translated from the FRENCH  
BY A PHYSICIAN.

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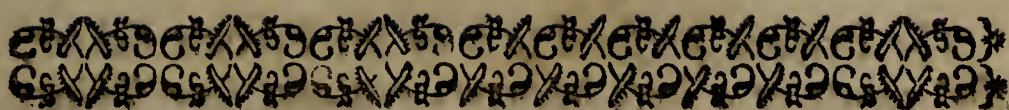
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T O T H E  
R E A D E R.

**O**F all the Diseases which afflict human Nature, none is more terrible than that produced by the Bite of mad Animals. A Disease that too often happens even in these Northern Regions, and numerous Specificks have been presented to the Publick, supported by the Authority of the greatest Men in the Profession, which yet, upon repeated Trials, have proved ineffectual. But, after all, as we are hardly to suppose that there is no such Thing in Nature as an Antidote to this Poison, we should still use our best Endeavours to find it out, and willingly embrace every Hint that has a Tendency thereto. It is more than a Hint which is promised in this little Tract; it is a certain Method of Cure; the Result, not of mere vague Hypotheses, but of solid Experiments made upon, at least, 300 Persons, with constant good Success.

The Tract itself is written in a distinct clear Style, which, as it gives a plain Evidence of the Honesty and good Sense of its Author, so it will naturally induce the Publick to give it a favourable Reception.

The



## To the R E A D E R.

*The Preface prefixed to it by the French Editor, tho' wrote in a loose Manner, contains some Things that illustrate the Work.*

*In the Number of Authors who have recommended the Use of Mercurials in this Disease, Dr. James, and the celebrated Van Swieten, deserve to be mentioned, having both treated pretty largely on this Subject.*

*Dr. James, in particular, in a Dissertation, entitled, A new Method of curing Madness, &c. which was laid before the Royal Society in February 1741, has given us an Account of many Experiments he had successfully made with Mercurials, first on Dogs, and afterwards on Men. The Preparation of Mercury he employed was Turbith Mineral; which seems, however, not to be the most advisable; since, in some Cases, where there are evident Signs of Inflammation about the Throat and Fauces, the Use of so irritating a Medicine may be attended with many bad Consequences. And, in any Case, the simple mercurial Ointment, externally applied, or the milder Mercurials, given internally, will produce all the good Effects we can expect from Mercury in the Cure of this Disease.*

A. B.

P R E.



# P R E F A C E,

B Y T H E

*French* E D I T O R.



THE Collection of Letters, published by the Jesuits, under the Title of *Lettres Edifiantes & Curieuses*, hath long since convinced the World, that the Missionaries of their Society, though chiefly employed in preaching the *Christian* Religion, have by no Means neglected to prosecute other Discoveries that might be useful to *France*. With this View it is that F. *Claude du Choisel*, Apothecary to the Mission of *Pondicherry*, has collected and sent to me several Observations on the Treatment of Madnefs proceeding from the Bite of mad Animals.

A

These



These Observations ought properly to have made a Part of the *Lettres Edifiantes & Curieuses*, but these Letters are not calculated to become so publick, as to make those who live in the Country speedily acquainted with the happy Effects of any Remedy : Tho' this in Question concerns them chiefly ; as they are much more exposed to the Bites of mad Animals than those who live in cities. They ought, therefore, to be apprized of it speedily, and nothing seems so likely to effect this, as by the Means of a small Pamphlet, which may quickly get into the Hands of Curates, Surgeons, and Country People. This Attention to the publick Good has determined me to print the Observations of F. *Choisel* : And I am too well acquainted with the reverend Fathers to have the least Doubt, but they will excuse me on this Account for the Liberty I have taken in committing a kind of Robbery on their Collection.

F. *du Choisel* has made use of mercurial Frictions with constant good Success. He declares, that he had not made use of this Remedy, but in consequence of the Experiments and Dissertation of the late M. *Default*, Fellow of the College of Physicians of the City of *Bordeaux*. This able Physician, from what Appearances he had observed on opening some Bodies of Animals that died of this Madness, and from the Authority of some ancient Authors, was led to think that Worms were the Cause of this Disease : And, seeing that the famous Powder of *Palmarius* was composed of Vermifuges only, he determined to introduce Mercury into the Blood, as the fittest Medicine to destroy Worms,  
which

which he supposed, were dispersed through all the Fluids.

This Hypothesis, such as it is, led M. *Default* to the Discovery of an excellent Remedy; and the happy Effects of it may be seen in his Dissertation on Madness from the Bite of mad Animals. M. *Default* declares, that he did not receive the least Hint of it from any Author, which makes it probable that he had not read an Observation of Mr. *Tauvry*, related in the History of the Royal Academy of Sciences for the Year 1699, which I shall here transcribe.

“ M. *Tauvry* attended several Days a young  
 “ Man who had been bit by a mad Dog, and  
 “ whose Death he had infallibly predicted. After  
 “ his Death, he opened him, tho’ hastily,  
 “ and found the internal Part of the *Œsophagus*  
 “ inflamed : The *Trachea Arteria* a little  
 “ so : In the Bottom of the Stomach about  
 “ three Spoonfuls of a pretty deep brown  
 “ glairy Humour, such as the Patient had  
 “ often vomited : The Gall-Bladder very full  
 “ of a Bile that was almost black : The *Peri-*  
 “ *cardium* had very little Water in it : The  
 “ *Arteries* were quite full of very fluid Blood,  
 “ and the *Veins* almost empty : No coagulated  
 “ Blood in any Part. The Blood, after Death,  
 “ did not coagulate in the cold Air ; whereas  
 “ that which had been drawn from the Patient  
 “ some Days before, coagulated presently. The  
 “ Brain, and almost all its Divisions, were  
 “ much drier than ordinary, as well as the  
 “ Beginning of the Spinal Marrow, and all the  
 “ Muscles in the Body. It is very probable,  
 A 2 “ says



“ says M. *Tauvry*, that it is the Property of  
 “ this Poison, to dissolve the balsamick and nu-  
 “ tritious Part of the Blood ; after which the  
 “ Body is no longer nourished, and *the Veins be-*  
 “ *ing dried up for Want of Nourishment, contract*  
 “ *themselves, and do not give a free Passage to*  
 “ *the Blood which they should receive from the*  
 “ *Arteries.* This Blood then being retained in  
 “ the Arteries, is there continually agitated,  
 “ pressed, and still more dissolved than it was  
 “ by the Dissolution of it’s balsamick Part  
 “ only.”

M. *Tauvry*, guided by this Hypothesis, searches after, and suggests to himself, Remedies agreeable to his Notions. After rejecting several, he adds ; “ As, in all Probability,  
 “ Emeticks might facilitate the Cure, if they  
 “ were made to stay sometime in the Stomach ;  
 “ Mercury, perhaps, given in a large Quantity,  
 “ might force open those Obstructions in the  
 “ Circulation, which are occasioned by the Con-  
 “ traction of the Veins.”

This Observation of M. *Tauvry* was known to Doctor *Mead*, and the illustrious *Boerhaave*, who mention it. They have both remarked the State in which the Arteries are found in the Bodies of those who died of this Madness. But neither of them have taken the least Notice of Mercury, with which M. *Tauvry* proposes to remove the Obstruction. Those learned Physicians have reminded us of the different Remedies that have been made use of against this Disease, and, at the same Time, confess, that their Efficacy is not to be depended on. All are uncertain.  
 They



They approve only of the use of bathing, for which they take their Authority, in particular, from an Observation of M. *Morin*, in the same History of the Royal Academy of Sciences, next to that of M. *Tauvry*: thus, “ A young girl, twenty Years of Age, was “ bit in the Hand by a little Boy, who was “ mad. She had all the Symptoms of this “ Madness: and, at last, sixteen Days after “ the Bite, they thought proper to bathe her “ in a large Bath of River-Water, rather cold “ than hot, in which a Bushel of Salt had “ been dissolved. They plunged her into “ it, quite naked, and drew her out again “ several times: And, after tormenting her “ extremely in this Manner, they left her “ sitting in the Bath, quite stupefied. When “ she recovered herself, she was surprised to “ find, that she could look on the Water, in “ which she was, without Emotion. After “ this, her Disease had nothing extraordinary in “ it, a Fever came on, which was treated in “ the common Method.” She took Emetics; continued the Use of bathing; and was cured.

This Case, no Doubt, deserves Attention. But how often has bathing proved useless? Dr. *Mead*, in explaining the Action of cold bathing, which he recommends, speaks of certain convulsive Constrictions on the whole Surface of our Bodies, occasioned by the bathing. This Action, communicated to the whole nervous System, encreases it's Effects on the Fluids, and ought to assist them in overcoming any small Obstructions, which happen at the Ex-  
tremities

tremities of the Arteries, and impede the Circulation. Since then these Baths are not found to produce this Effect but very rarely, as all Authors, even Dr. *Mead* and *Boerhaave* agree, it was but natural to have Recourse to Mercury; which M. *Tauvry* proposed, almost in the same Page where we find that Observation of M. *Morin*, which these two great Physicians have been so fond of.

In this Manner would the Specifick for this terrible Disease have remained in Obscurity, had not M. *Desault* fallen upon it in another Way.

We shall not enter upon a further Examination of the different Remedies, that have been employed against this Species of Madness. Those who incline to consult the Works of *Mead* and *Boerhaave*, will there find a particular Account of them, and the Judgment which those great Men have given of them. Permit me to add; that in all those Cases where People afflicted with the *Hydrophobia* have been cured, it has been by Remedies which have served to relax the nervous Fibres \*. Such have been the Effects of plentiful bleedings to fainting.

It is this relaxing Quality which Dr. *Nugent*, Physician at *Bath*, had in View in the  
Cure

\* Our *French* Editor seems not to have the happiest Talents for reasoning on medical Subjects: Nevertheless, as it would be doing him Injustice, though, perhaps, a Kindness, to conceal any Part of his Notions; the Translator has endeavoured to exhibit them fairly, and submits them to the Reader.



Cure of the *Hydrophobia*, in the Account he has published. He bled his Patient several times: Gave her frequently large Doses of Opium, Nitre, and Camphire, Medicines, in the Opinion of *Hoffman* and *Tralles*, of all others the most proper for removing all Obstacles in the Extremities of the Vessels, that impede the Circulation. He likewise gave Cinnabar and Musk, the famous *Chinese* Remedy. Clysters were frequently administered: And, by a methodical, but very long Perseverance in the Use of these different Remedies, he at length cured the Patient.

This happy Success, tho' in one Instance only, is the Foundation of a Discourse given us by Dr. *Nugent*, on this Subject. We shall not copy him in this respect in the following Performance. A single Experiment is not sufficient for establishing a general Rule. And Dr. *Mead* has plainly shewn the Uncertainty of Opium and the *Indian* Remedy. All these Medicines; the whole of the Course published by Dr. *Nugent*; tend to relax the Nerves and Extremities of the Arteries. A Remedy, which produces this Effect, is discovered: The good Success of it is evinced by numerous Experiments, made at different Times and in different Places. The Application of this Remedy is simple and easy; within the Reach of our country Surgeons. And it is this we ought particularly to regard. Let us follow M. *Desault*; without neglecting the Experience of others, who, after him, have made use of mercurial Unctions in the Cure of this Madness.

F. *du Choisel* did not think it necessary to follow M. *Desault*'s Method implicitly ; but, with the utmost Attention, to which he was excited by the Motives of Charity which Religion inspires, he scrupulously examined every Fact, in order to improve by his own Experience.

Experience likewise has made him think differently from M. *Desault*, in respect to the Danger proceeding from touching the *Saliva* of mad Animals. This Gentleman, *viz.* M. *Desault*, was of Opinion, that this *Saliva* might infect a Person without any aperture being made in the Skin, by mere Contact only. But F. *du Choisel*, notwithstanding the Authority of *Galen*, and of *Cælius Aurelianus* cited by M. *Desault*, from the many Instances he had seen of People walking barefoot on the *Saliva* of those who were in the last Stage of this Madness, without suffering the least Harm, thought he had sufficient Reason to reject this Manner of Infection, and place it among vulgar Errors. We particularly mention this Fact, in order to remove any Apprehension of Danger from this Kind of Infection in those who may be exposed to it, in endeavouring to assist those who are labouring under this Disorder.

We ought, however, to be on our Guard against the Bite of such as are affected. M. *Desault* never saw one of them making any thing like an Attempt to bite. M. *Tauvry* declares, that he has seen them attempt it. Which is farther confirmed by F. *du Choisel*'s Evidence : And we shall see the Fact, he mentions, attended with such exact and terrible Circumstances,



cumstances, that it would be a sort of Madness not to secure one's-self from Danger : And either not to go near the Patient, or to keep the Hands covered with thick Gloves, or some sort of Stuff, whilst we are assisting them.

We may add another Difference that appears between the Opinion of M. *Default* and F. *du Choisel*. The former thinks, that those who are already seized with the *Hydrophobia*, or Fear of Water, are incurable : F. *du Choisel* has happily found the contrary: And his Experience should engage Physicians and Surgeons not to abandon any of their Patients on Account of this Symptom.

We have already observed, that our Author has not servilely copied M. *Default*'s Method in every thing. This Gentleman thought it necessary to add *Palmarius*'s Powder to the Use of Mercury. F. *du Choisel* has rejected this Powder, and preferred the mercurial Pills. He likewise differs from M. *Default* in the Times and Number of Unctions, as well as in the Quantity of Mercurial Ointment he applies : And we must allow, that the Friar makes a much larger Quantity of Mercury enter the Blood of the Patient, with less Danger, in his Method, than M. *Default*. I do not think it will be requisite to bring both Examples and Proofs of this Fact, which I might easily do from the Treatment of another Disease, in which Mercury is employed.

But whatever Preference is given to F. *du Choisel*'s Method, yet M. *Default* has led the Way ; and, if he has not kept so steadily in it, but

has had Recourse to other Supports ; let any Man represent to himself the Greatness of the Disease, the Force of Prejudice, and the Novelty of the Remedy, &c. he will hardly refuse a proper Share of the Praise that is due to the Inventor.

The Observations communicated by *F. du Choisel* are not the only ones that prove the Efficacy of the Remedy made Use of by *M. Desault*. *M. Darlue*, Physician at *Caillan* in *Provence*, has also treated several Persons attacked with this Disease in 1747 and 1748. His Observations are published in the periodical Collection of Observations in Physick, Surgery, and Pharmacy of *September* 1755. One may see Facts in them capable of resolving the Doubts of some Persons on the Existence of this Distemper ; and a Number of Cases uniformly treated, which, with those conducted by *M. Desault* and our Author, should certainly procure to mercurial Unctions the Title of *Specifick* in this Madness. I may add, that *M. Darlue* cured himself by the same Remedies he prescribed to others.

*F. du Choisel* purges with mercurial Pills : *M. Darlue* vomits with Turbith Mineral in small Doses.\* The Impression which the Leaven of this Madness makes on the *Œsophagus* and Stomach, and the momentary Relief which the Patients receive from vomiting, have, no Doubt, determined *Mr. Darlue* to give this violent

\* A Practice, we presume, he borrowed from our Country-man *Dr. James*, though, like the greatest Part of the Writers of his Nation, studious of concealing how much they are indebted to us, in respect to the Practice of Physick, as well as in regard to some other Branches of Science.



lent Emetick, so capable of producing a Compression of all the Glands, and freeing them of any vitiated Humour. Some might be afraid of this, on Account, at least in some Cases, of the too great Tension of the Fibres, and an inflammatory Disposition, and might prefer the Use of a Cathartick to that of an Emetick. We leave this Point to be decided by those who may have Patients of this Kind under their Care. Experience should guide our Reasoning here, and we must not neglect to take in the Differences of Climate, Manner of Living, Age, and Constitution of the Patient. At *Pondicherry* the People are miserably Poor, and sober through Necessity.

It now remains that we speak of Bathing in Sea-Water. Our three Authors have shewn its Inefficacy. When they permitted their Patients to make use of it, it was only done that the Sick might not be deprived of a Remedy, which; however insignificant, would at least serve to keep up their Spirits. With this View we may permit the Use of Bathing to those who are near the Sea Shore: But it would be imprudent, that those who are at a great Distance from it, should spend that Time in running after an useless Remedy, which may be better employed in the Use of a Specifick so well attested.

## APPROBATION.

I HAVE read, by Order of my Lord Chancellor, a Manuscript, entitled : *A Short, Easy and Certain Method of Treating Persons Bit by mad Animals.* As we cannot make too publick a Book, which promises a perfect Cure of a Disease so terrible and so fatal as this Kind of Madness : So nothing ought to hinder the Printing of it.

Paris, May 15th  
1756.


*Signed* GUETTAR.





A N

EASY, SHORT, and CERTAIN  
M E T H O D, &c.

HO' I have only been in *India* about 14 Years, I imagine that the Eldest Practitioners of Physick in *Europe* have scarcely had so frequent Opportunities of treating Persons bit by mad Animals, such as Dogs, Cats, Foxes, or by their own Species. Animals, especially Dogs, are much apter to run mad in this Country, than in *France*. The great Heat of the Climate may, perhaps, be one particular Cause; and their Food may likewise contribute to it. They get very little to eat in the Houses of their Masters, (who are commonly very Poor) and, for the most Part, live upon Carion: This corrupted Meat, no Doubt, predisposes them to Madness. These Animals, however, do not die of this Disease; but such as are bit by them in a Fit of it, are seized

seized with Madness that proves deadly. This Observation is founded on the following Event.

A little Dog bit his Master's Son in the Arm, and took out the Piece. The young Man came several Days to have it dressed : And went to bathe in the Sea nine or ten Days running. All this Time I made him take a Dose of *Theraica* every Morning. I enquired whether the little Dog had bit any other Person ; whether he looked sick, eat or drank well, &c. From the Account I received, I presumed that the young Man was in no Danger. Yet, about a Month after the Bite, he fell sick, and died in three Days. Nobody imputed his Death to the Bite of the little House Dog, which remained well, had not bit any other Person, and, in other Respects, had not given any Marks of Sicknefs. And yet the young Man had the *Hydrophobia* for three Days before his Death.

It is not my Design to treat of the Nature of this Madness : That is beyond my Sphere. I shall only give an Account of some Facts which have passed under my Notice, leaving to Persons of greater Abilities to draw the proper Inferences from them.

In the Exercise of that Charity in which I am engaged, in dispensing Medicines to the Sick ; I have had the Mortification to see many die of this Madness, after having treated them in the best Manner I could, according to the common Rules of Medicine. I had soon Reason to be convinced, that those who had written upon this Distemper had not yet found  
out



out a Specifick for it. *Palmarius*, who has entered into a particular Detail of the Symptoms and Circumstances of this Disease, seems to have advanced, without any good Foundation, that Bites, in the Face, are more dangerous than in any other Part of the Body. What may have deceived him is, that the Face not being covered like the other Parts of the Body, the Slaver of the mad Animal is introduced more easily into the Wound: Whereas the Cloaths, that cover the other Parts, wipe the Teeth of the mad Animal, and retain the Slaver. In this Climate, where the Inhabitants go almost naked, the Bite is equally dangerous, whether in the Face or Foot, notwithstanding the Foot is at so much greater Distance from the Brain. Among those whom I have seen die of this Disease, one had been bit in the Left Hand ; another in the Arm ; a third in the Leg ; and a fourth in the Face : From whence it is natural to conclude, that if the Slaver of the Animal insinuates itself into the Blood, by whatever Parts of the Body, it is sufficient to give us the greatest Cause to fear the same miserable Consequences.

The Authors who have written on this Distemper, at least those whom I have had an Opportunity of consulting, have all spoken of it in a vague and obscure Manner. I know of no Dissertation, but that of M. *Desault*, which describes this Disease conformably to my Observations of it. It is not the Novelty alone of the Remedy, which he proposes in his Tract, that has engaged me to make use of it. Neither, on the contrary, am I one of those who are so obstinately attached to the Notions of the Antients, that nothing can dissuade them ; even though  
Reason

Reason and Experience concur in demonstrating the Falſity of thoſe Opinions on which they reſt. The Remedy againſt this Madneſs, of which the Publick owes the Diſcovery to M. *Deſault*, is Mercury. Before I made uſe of it, I had tried in vain Cordials, Bitters, Abſorbents, Bathing in the Sea, and every Thing that is preſcribed in Medicine for the Cure of Perſons bit by mad Animals. At the Month's End theſe Perſons died with the moſt evident Symptoms of this Madneſs, *viz.* a ghafly and even convulſed Aſpect, and faltering Voice; they ſighed, and were not capable of explaining what they felt, they avoided the Light, had a Dread of Water, and fell into Convulſions when it was offered them to drink.

Many of thoſe who were under my Care, flattered themſelves that they had eſcaped the Symptoms of Madneſs, and even Death itſelf, by the Uſe of the common Remedies, which I gave, when firſt I undertook to treat this Diſorder: But I am perſuaded that the Animals which had bitten them were not mad. The marks aſſigned by Authors to know a mad Dog, are ſometimes very ambiguous. We cannot always judge by the Appearance, whether a Dog be mad or not. In this Uncertainty, I have followed the ſafeſt and moſt rational Method, which is to take for granted, that all thoſe who ſay they have been bit by a mad Animal, have been ſo in Reality; and the rather, as, if the Animal was not mad, my Method of Treatment can do them no Harm.

My Method differs in ſome Meaſure from that of M. *Deſault*, but, I dare venture to ſay, mine is preferable to it. I



I begin with rubbing a Dram of Mercurial Ointment upon the wounded Part, keeping open the Wound, as much as possible, in order that the Ointment may penetrate into it. The next Day I repeat the Uñction on all the bitten Member, and purge my Patient with a Dram of the mercurial Pills. The third Day, after rubbing in the Ointment only on the bitten Part, I give him a small mercurial Bolus, or the fourth Part of the Dose above-mentioned. I continue thus for ten Days to rub in a Dram of the Ointment every Morning, and to give the laxative Bolus, which commonly procures the Patient two or three Stools, and hinders the Mercury from affecting the upper Parts. At the End of ten Days, I purge again with the same Pills, and dismiss the Patient.

### *The* MERCURIAL PILLS.

Three Drams of Crude Mercury, extinguished in a Dram of Turpentine.

Choice Rhubarb,	}	of each two Drams.
Colloquintida in Powder,		
Gutta Gamba.		

I make up the whole with a sufficient Quantity of clarified Honey. The Dose one Dram.

### MERCURIAL OINTMENT.

One Ounce of Crude Mercury, extinguished in two Drams of Turpentine.

Mutton Suet, three Ounces.

Make an Ointment of the Whole.

The Quantity to be rubbed in at every Uñction in this Disease, is one Dram.

I make use of Mutton Suet here, because the Heat of the Climate hinders the Hog's-Lard from having the Consistence necessary for an Ointment.

The Method I have described, and the Time mentioned, are only proper for those who come to be taken Care of immediately after being bit: For, when two or three Weeks have passed after the Bite, it is evident, we must increase the Dose of the Medicines; and continue the Use of them for a longer Time; because the Disease has taken deeper Root. It is not necessary to observe, that the Dose must be lessened to Children in Proportion to their Age. For them; I cause small Quantities of the Ointment to be rubbed in every Day for fifteen Days, and purge them once in three Days with Syrup of Rhubarb.

I have remarked that Children and young People are, in general, more susceptible of the Venom of this Disease than those of an advanced Age.

As to Regimen, I forbid my Patients the Use of Things tart or acid, and all crude Meats, or such as are hard to digest. For the rest, I give them entire Liberty to eat what they please. Bathing in the Sea has hitherto been looked upon as an infallible Preservative against the *Rabies*. The Experience which I have had of it in all those Patients who were not treated according to my new Method, has proved to me the Falsity of that Opinion. They bathed themselves every Day in the Sea, but to no Purpose: Not one of them survived the Bite  
longer



longer than thirty or three and thirty Days. I do not, however, disapprove of these Bathings where they serve to quiet the Minds of the Patients. Besides, the *Indians* usually bathe themselves every Day. We are situated here on the Sea-shore, and it is a Matter of Indifference whether a few Waves of Sea-Water pass over their Bodies, or they wash themselves in a Pond. In this hot Country there is no Danger of an obstructed Perspiration or Pleurifies. If I were at a greater Distance from the Sea Coast, and in a cold Country, I would have nothing to do with such Sort of Remedies, which I look upon as entirely useless in the Cure of this Disease.

When I had found, from the learned Dissertation of M. *Desault*, the Method of giving Mercury to prevent this Madness, I did not scrupulously confine myself to his Method: I found it too tedious: For why should thirty or forty Days be spent in curing this Disease, when twelve or fifteen are sufficient? This Author makes use of the Mercurial Uction only thrice; *viz.* the three first Days.—He contents himself with giving his Patient the bitter Powder of *Palmarius* during the thirty or forty Days of the Cure. But I have more Faith in Mercury against the Poison of this Distemper than in the Powder of *Palmarius*. Mercury, internally and externally used, though in small Quantities, appeared to me much more capable of dissipating this Venom, than any other Medicine. For this Reason I ventured to make the Patient take, every Day, a small laxative Bolus compos'd of Mercury, and I have never had Reason to repent of this Practice.

Although it be very rare that the Method I have used occasions a Salivation, yet it sometimes happens. This gives me no Uneasiness: I continue in my usual Way. I had rather see a Patient under a Salivation for a few Days than mad. However, the Mercury for the most Part, goes off by Stool, without any Disturbance. Most of those to whom I have administered this Remedy, followed their usual Employments in the same Manner as when they took no Medicines: A Matter of great Importance in this Country, where People are so poor, that if they leave off working two or three Days together, they are absolutely in Want of Necessaries.

I know not whether this Disorder was in former Times attended with different Symptoms from what it is in our Days: But I have never seen one of these mad Persons mimic the Creature that bit him, as is generally believed: Nor have I ever observed that those who were mad were seized with Fits of Rage at intercalary Times. When the Disease is manifest, the Person dies on the third Day; seldom continues to the fourth, as the first Fit always carries him off.

'Tis an Error to believe, that the frothy *Saliva* of a mad Person infects those who touch it; for in my Presence, several Persons have walked bare-foot on the *Saliva* of a Child that died the same Day raving mad; and not one of those who had touched the *Saliva*, or walked upon it, felt the least Injury. This *Saliva*, or Slaver, can do no Harm until it has penetrated the Flesh and passed into the Blood.



As to the furious Desire which some Patients have of biting those who approach them: I never saw it, but in one young Man, who bit two Women, his Relations. The Fact, which I am now going to relate at large in all its Circumstances, will fully prove the Efficacy of my Method in curing this Madness.

*March* 25, 1753, a young *Indian* Convert was brought to me: He was between 13 and 14 Years old, and they told me that he had the Ague. I asked how long he had had it? they made Answer, since last Night. I felt his Hands, and found they were cool enough, and did not perceive any Fever. I gave him some *Febrifuge* Pills, made with Wormwood and the *Ox bezoar*, and ordered him a *Ptyfan* to drink of Crystal Mineral and Liquorice. Next Day, the 26th, they brought him back much in the same Condition: I repeated his Medicines. The 27th he was brought again, but I could not perceive any other Alteration in the Boy than that his Face, and particularly his Eyes and Eye-Lids, were convulsed. I attributed these Symptoms to Worms, and gave him a Dose of cathartick Pills, which procured four or five Stools, and vomited him three times. I sent him a small Dose of *Diascordium* to be taken that Night at Bed-time: He passed the Night without Sleep, and in great Anxiety. The 28th in the Morning, when the Patient was brought to me again, he seemed to be a great deal worse: His Hands were somewhat cold; his Pulse small, and very quick: He had a confused Look: His Face, Eyes, Eye-Lids, and Lips, were frequently convulsed: He spoke with  
Difficulty,

Difficulty, and his Words were interrupted with Sighs. I suspected there was some Poison or Venom in the Case, and enquired of his Parents if he had eaten any Thing that could have occasioned this Disorder, or if any Animal had stung or bitten him : They answered, No. I asked the Patient if he remembered having been bit by a Dog ? Yes, he said, he had, and then shewed me his right Hand, which was marked in five or six Places by the Teeth of the Dog ; and those Parts were still raised above the Skin. The Dog had been immediately killed, and thirty Days had passed since this Accident. I then made no Doubt it was the *Rabies* the young Man was seized with ; but in order to be more certainly convinced of it, I ordered a Cup of clear Water to be brought him by way of Medicine : At Sight of the Water, he slipped hastily out of the Hands of his Parents, protesting, with an Air full of Terror, that absolutely he would not drink a Drop of it. These Words were accompanied with several violent convulsive Motions, which were plain Evidences of this Madness, and of the short Time he had to live. Without Delay I had him carried to Church, to receive the last Sacraments ; fearing, lest the Frenzy, which comes on always, with more or less Violence, at the Approach of Death, might prevent my administering them to him. After this he was carried home. About three o'Clock in the Afternoon he became furious, and bit two Women, his Relations, in the Arm, who, as I mentioned before, were waiting on him : One of them was about 60 Years old, and the other thirty. As soon as I heard of this Accident, I went to the Patient, and took  
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Care to have him tied down, in order to prevented further Mischief. He died about eight o'Clock that Night. Had I known his Disease sooner, I had probably cured him. To relieve the Women, to whom this Misfortune had happened, I ordered some of the Mercurial Ointment to be rubbed into each of their Arms that had been bit. The eldest of the two, who as she was bitten first, ran the greatest Risk, was very careful to come every Day for my Medicines, after having bathed herself in the Sea. I treated her in the Manner before mentioned. She was purged the first and twelfth Day with a Dram of the mercurial Pills : In the Interval she took daily a small mercurial Bolus, and had every Day too a Dram of the mercurial Ointment rubbed into the bitten Arm. This Woman had three or four Stools a Day, and during the whole Time of the Cure I observed no other sensible Effect of the Medicines. She had a good Appetite : Was usually employed in her domestick Affairs : Had not the least Appearance of a Salivation ; and has always enjoyed good Health for the two Years and a half since this Accident happened. It was not so with the other Woman who was bit : She came to me the two first Days, but did not return again after for three or four Days. I sent for her, and upbraided her with it, acquainting her with the Danger which threatened her, if she left off using the Medicines. She submitted to a third Uction, then left off coming ; contenting herself with going to bathe in the Sea twice a Day, for fifteen or twenty Days. She now thought herself free from Danger, by her Bathings, because she had been well enough in Health to the 7th of *May* at Night  
which

which was the 39th Day from the Bite: But she then began to feel a heavy Pain in her Head, as she informed me by Message. I sent her half a Dram of Ointment to make a slight Unction upon the Arm that had been bit, desiring she would come to me next Morning. She came, after having bathed in the Sea. She owned that she was much afraid she was infected with the same Disease as the Boy who had bit her. I endeavoured to inspire her with Confidence, though I considered the Pain of her Head as a Symptom of approaching Madness. It is true that thirty Days is the usual Time before the *Rabies* commonly shews itself, but the Delay of nine Days might be occasioned by the three Unctions she made Use of at the Beginning. Be that as it will, I made her take a Dram of mercurial Pills. She vomited twice, and was purged nine or ten times. Next Day, having bathed herself well in the Sea, (for she had such a Fancy for this Bathing, that I let her use it as much as she pleased) she came, and told me, that, notwithstanding her being well purged, she was not relieved of the Pain and Heaviness in her Head: That her Head was become insensible, and like a Piece of Wood (these were her own Words). She added, that she had Pains in her Neck, Breast, Belly, and particularly all down her Back. I gave her a laxative mercurial Bolus, and ordered three Drams of the Ointment to be rubbed into her Back, and the Arm which had been bit. The Day following, May 10th, I repeated both those. A Cup of Water, which I made them present to her, raised her Stomach, and made her draw back: Nevertheless, by my Persuasion, she overcame her Reluctancy, and



and drank a little of it, but threw it up again by Vomit. The *Hydrophobia* characterised the Disease too plainly to doubt it's being the true *Rabies*. It is usual for those who have this last Symptom to die the same Day, or the Day following; which I have learned from frequent Experience. The Business then most pressing, was to procure the Sacraments to be administered to her. After this, without despairing of a Cure, I caused to be rubbed in, at Night, three Drams of mercurial Ointment over her whole Body. Next Morning it was repeated: At this Time the Patient kept herself in a Corner of the Chamber, and would neither eat nor drink. Under these Circumstances a Salivation began, which I looked on as a favourable Omen. I repeated the Unction again at Night, with three Drams of Ointment: In the Night-time she salivated much, and next Day found her Head considerably relieved. Two slight Unctions, which were afterwards made with two Drams of Ointment each Time, kept up a plentiful Salivation all that Day. The Day following, which was *Sunday, May 13th*, she found herself so well, that she went to bathe in the Sea: She came also to hear Mass, and to ask Medicines of me. The Sight of her, and the Change in her Condition, surprised me agreeably. I had the Curiosity to try if the *Hydrophobia* was gone: She drank, though, indeed, with some Difficulty, half a Cup of Water. I again repeated the Unctions, (but made them slighter) Morning and Evening, for two Days longer. The second Day, at Night, there came on a Dysenterick Purging. I was not in the least alarmed at it: I strengthened the Patient inwardly with a little Confection of Hyacinth.

The Salivation, Purging, and Dyfentery continued until next Day; when, not observing any further Signs of Illness, and the *Hydrophobia* being quite gone, I gave her an Ounce of *Catholicon*, made with a double Quantity of Rhubarb, which purged her gently, and stopped the Dyfentery and Purging, occasioned by the Mercury. At Night she took a Dose of *Diaf-cordium*, and next Day repeated the same Remedies Morning and Evening. Lastly, by Means of an astringent Gargle, I fastened the Patient's Teeth, which had been a little loosened, and she did not lose one of them. The Cure was in this Manner happily compleated. She is now in perfect Health.

There is not, in any Author I know, Mention made of so much as one Person who has had the *Hydrophobia* three Days and has survived it. This, however, is a Cure, in which the Lord has permitted me to be the Instrument.

I shall not here relate numberless other Instances of the Efficacy of this Method which I use, to preserve from the *Rabies* those who have been bit by mad Animals. I can safely declare, that I have treated, with equal Success, Men, Women, Children, *Indians*, *Portuguese*, Blacks, *Melattoes*, and *Armenians*, more in Number than three hundred Persons, without one of them being afflicted with the least Symptom of Madness: And all this since the Year 1749, when I began to make Use of mercurial Unc-tions. I do not pretend to say, that all those whom I treated would have become mad, if they had not had Recourse to my Remedies: But since so many Persons, bit by mad Animals, have



have been kept free from the Symptoms of Madnefs; the Matter is beyond all Difpute, fince the Cure of the greateft Part cannot be attributed to any Thing but to the Effects of the Remedy I have constantly made Ufe of on all thofe Occafions.

I think it not foreign to our Purpofe to add what an *Indian*, a Man of good Senfe, who, for upwards of 25 years, has worked in our Laboratory at *Pondicherry* faid to me one Day, in fpeaking of mercurial Unctions: *Since, fays he, we have given this Remedy to thofe who have been bit by mad Animals, not one has died: Before this, Theriaca, Bathing in the Sea, and the beft Plaiſters, did not cure People. It would ſeem that you have found out a Specifick for this Madnefs.*

This Reflection deferves the more Attention; in that an *Indian*, incapable of tracing out any Sort of Analogy between the Remedy and the Difeaſe, has formed his Judgment of the conſtant Cures that have been effected by my new Method fimply from what he ſaw.

At the Time I write this, I have under Cure five Perſons bit by Dogs ſuppoſed to have been mad: They are all in a fair Way of Recovery.

I N I S.

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